

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05271 061616Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS CZ
CH USDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5271

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, BR
SUBJ: JBUSMC AND USDAO VIEWS OF ADMIRAL LYRA

REFS: A. DAO MSG 061600Z JUN 78
B. CH USDEL JBUSMC MSG 161628Z JUN 78
C. DAO MSG 201300Z JUN 78
D. DAO MSG 201930Z JUN 78

1. CONTRARY TO US DEL JBUSMC'S VIEW (REF B), WE BELIEVE THAT COMMENTS BY ADMIRAL LYRA, PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT BRAZILIAN US MILITARY COMMISSION (JBUSMC), TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE (REF A) ABOUT THE BRAZILIAN PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT SERVICE-TO-SERVICE RELATIONSHIPS IN LIEU OF JOINT COMMISSION APPROACH REPRESENT MORE THAN PERSONAL BIAS. AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN LYRA'S SELECTION OF HIS PRESENT POSITION MAY WELL HAVE BEEN THE CONVERGENCE BETWEEN HIS VIEWS (REPORTED REFTELS A AND B) AND THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS IMMEDIATE TOP ADVISERS. WE NOTE ADMIRAL HENNING, LYRA'S SUPERIOR AS MINISTER OF THE NAVY, COMMENTED IN MUCH THE SAME VEIN AS LYRA ABOUT SOUTHCOM DURING AMBASSADOR SAYRE'S RECENT COURTESY CALL ON THE NAVY MINISTER (REF C, PARA 2). SIMILARLY, DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S
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CALL ON MINISTER OF THE ARMY GENERAL BETHLEM JUN 20 (REF D), MINISTER BETHLEM INDICATED A DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP VIA AN ACTIVE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND DOCTRINE WITH THE US ARMY. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE ROLE OF THE SERVICE ATTACHES AS GO-BETWEENS AND SAW NO NEED TO CREATE ANOTHER ORGANIZATION LIKE JBUSMC OR TO HAVE A NEW MILITARY ACCORD.

2. EVIDENCE AVAILABLE HERE, REINFORCED BY THE COMMENTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS OF TWO SERVICE MINISTERS EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT, INDICATES THAT LYRA'S THINKING IS CONVERGENT WITH THE GOB'S NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. WHILE SOME OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS AT LOWER ECHELONS WHO DEPEND UPON US LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN COMBAT READINESS MAY QUESTION THE WISDOM OF THE ABROGATION OF ALL BILATERAL MILITARY ACCORDS WITH THE US, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS ANY SERIOUS DISCORD OR DEBATE WITHIN THE MILITARY ON THIS SUBJECT. THE HIGH LEVEL DECISION TAKEN AFTER JOINT AND THOROUGH STAFFING HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE MILITARY AS THE TERMINATION OF A PATERNALISTIC RELATIONSHIP NO LONGER IN BRAZIL'S INTEREST IN ITS PRESENT FORM. SAYRE

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